

# TOWN OF UNION

<http://www.union.govoffice2.com/>

785-3658

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Questions, concerns? Please contact the Town Manager anytime either by mail or phone!  
[jayunion@roadrunner.com](mailto:jayunion@roadrunner.com)  
 785-3658

### TOWN MEETING JUNE 20TH 7:00PM

Our annual Town Meeting is Monday June 20th at 7:00 PM!

Putting the budget together is about a 5 month project with tremendous amount of time and energy put into it so we may present to the voters a reasonable budget that stays within our means.

The various departments have presented their budgets to me, and I have made changes and passed these along to the Board of Selectmen. The Board made some further changes and off it went to the Budget Committee.

The Budget Committee made some suggestions and now it is your turn!

The Board has presented you a budget that calls for a slight increase in spending as they have committed to bringing our road budget up to par. ( See related story)

Although there is a slight increase in the budget, due to some slight revenue increases **THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET WILL NOT CAUSE A LARGE TAX INCREASE, IF ANY!**

So the question always is

### SCHOOL BUDGET

asked, " why have my taxes gone up the past few years?"

The past three years all of the increases in the mil rate can be attributed to three factors:

- 1: Increases in the school budget
- 2: Increases in the County budget
- 3: Reduced revenue sharing from the State

Along with reduced revenue sharing comes all the unfunded mandates but that is another story!

### DID YOU KNOW?

1. You can get your hunting and fishing licenses, as well as re-register your vehicles online. Go to the Town's web page and follow the links.
2. Through the hard work of all our Department Heads we have written and received around \$100,000 in grants this year!
3. Our office opens at 8:00 am! But remember we close at noon on Fridays.
4. The Town of Union is in a select few that have periodic informational meetings.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEGINS WITH YOU!**

### POTHOLES, AND OUR PAVING BUDGET

What creates the most calls and concerns from the citizens is the condition of the roads. There is nothing else that comes close to citizen concerns.

During my time as Selectmen many years ago, I was always an advocate for taking care of our infrastructure. Somehow over the years we have failed

to keep up with inflation. It was not too many years ago that we paved 3 plus miles of roads a year. This past year we did just over a mile!

Our road paving plan calls for close to 4 miles per year and somehow we need to get to that point within the next few years. The

longer we put off taking care of our pavement the more it cost to repair it later on.

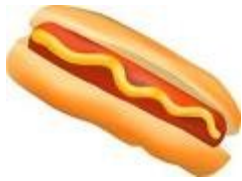
The Board of Selectmen have added an article that adds \$75K to our paving budget this year.

We hope you approve this article as it will enable us to at least keep up with inflation this year.

## HOT DOGS!

Again this year at Town Meeting the Ambulance/Fire Departments will be serving up Hot Dogs!

We will have other goodies there too and if you wish to bake something for them to sell please feel free to do so.



## NEW ROAD GRADER?

By the time you read this you may have seen this shiny (new) grader out working our roads. Well it really is not new but it looks like it.

After many years of neglect our road grader needed some major repairs. We received estimates of up to \$50,000 to repair it. WOW! With the expertise of our in house public works employee Jeremy Kurr and crew we have refurbished the grader at a cost of about 10% of what it would be to send it out.

We are fortunate to have such a talented person to do this work and save the Town thousands of dollars.

## TRANSFER STATION

The transfer station is not run by the Town of Union, it is run by the Tri-County Board.

1. The station has reduced its budget the past two years!
2. The more you recycle the less it cost to run the facility!
3. Phone is 785-2261
4. Hazardous Waste Day  
June 18, 8:30– 11:30

## HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO ATTEND TOWN MEETING?

If I had a dollar for everyone who told me that last years bond package was a “no – Brainer” and “shoe-in, so I did not come” we could pave another mile or roads!

If you do not attend Town Meeting any special interest group can bring out 40 or 50 people and get their agenda passed.

And this is the way politics works, those who are in-

volved and organized tend to get what they want. Even if it is not what the majority really wants. And sometimes this can cost the Town considerable money.

The above mentioned bond issue is an example of that. The road paving bond was for 1 million dollars, at 1.25% interest. (approx). We could have locked into 2010 asphalt prices and paved many miles of road and even upgraded

some our major dirt roads. The interest over the 10 year period was just over 100K, the **one year** increase in the price of asphalt is more than we would have paid in interest over 10 years!

At this rate of increase we will pay close to 500K more over the next 10 years to pave!

The majority who attended spoke, but was it what **you** wanted

*BURN  
PERMITS  
AVAILABLE  
5AM TO 5PM  
7 DAYS A  
WEEK AT  
THE FIRE  
STATION*

## ROAD SIGNS

Within the next few weeks you will see our bird house volunteers out putting up new birdhouse road signs.

Ralph Blackington and crew are all volunteer and have been working all winter preparing new signs to be put up this spring.

Each year we lose dozens of these signs to vandals and thieves. If you see any sign in Town being vandalized or stolen I

urge you to call the police immediately. It not only cost us all money it can cause confusion when emergency vehicles are trying to find your house!

In addition to the birdhouse signs we are beginning to replace the “official” green road signs. If you have a road sign that is missing please call the highway department at 785-3411.

## MAILBOXES

I have spoken about mailboxes in a previous newsletter. As you know all mailboxes are in the right of ways and when damaged they are your responsibility to repair.

This can be time consuming and very frustrating! Although we do not endorse any products there is a couple of companies offering swing away mail box poles. They survive the snow plow and snow loads. Check them out on the web!

## LIST-SERVE

GO TO OUR WEB PAGE AND SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS OF MEETINGS, AGENDAS AND NEWSLETTERS. THE OFFICE STAFF IS NOT ABLE TO ADD YOU SO YOU MUST GO ONLINE AND SIGN-UP